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REVIEWS.

SPECIAL REPORTS ON SPECIAL CLASSES OF THE POPULATION.

Benevolent Institutions, 1904; *Paupers in Almshouses*, 1904; *Insane and Feeble-minded in Hospitals and Institutions*, 1904. Prepared under the direction of Mr. John Koren, and published by the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 1905 and 1906.

Benevolent Institutions, 1904.

This report published in 1905 was the first of the series of reports to deal with special classes. By benevolent institutions is meant all institutions "supported wholly or in part by public taxation, private endowment, or subscriptions, donations, and other forms of gift, for the benefit of the sick, aged, and needy." There were so many institutions of a mixed character that it was found difficult in many cases to draw a line of demarcation between those that should and those that should not be included in the inquiry. Free dispensaries, day nurseries, and special schools for the deaf and blind, if they served also as homes, were included in the inquiry.

It was possible to tabulate only the more elementary facts regarding such a heterogeneous group of institutions, if for no other reason than a lack of uniform methods of keeping reports and accounts in the various institutions. Returns were secured from 4,207 benevolent institutions. Of this number 1,493 were hospitals, 1,075 orphanages and children's homes, 753 permanent and 499 temporary homes for adults or adults and children, 166 nurseries, 156 dispensaries, and 115 schools and homes for the deaf and blind. The growth in the number of these institutions is shown by single years for the period 1890-1903. The statistics also show the movement of the institutional population during the calendar year 1904 and the number of inmates remaining on Dec. 31, 1904. The financial statistics show for each institution the cost of maintenance during 1903, together with the amount of income from annual subsidies from public funds and the receipts from pay patients.

This report will be of special value to all charity workers, as it is admirably adapted for use as a handbook and directory. The form in which the tables have been cast could not easily be improved upon, and the general arrangement of the data is such that the information wanted may be found with a minimum amount of time and effort.

Paupers in Almshouses, 1904.

This report was the second of the series dealing with special classes of the population, and was published in 1906. The delay in publication was due to the provision of the Act of Congress of March 6, 1902, establishing a permanent Bureau of the Census, which stipulated that the enumeration of the special classes of the population must be deferred until the completion of the census reports on Agriculture and Manufactures. As a result of this provision of the law, the enumeration of the special classes was not begun until three years after the enumeration of the general population in 1900.

The collection of the data was principally by schedules filled out by the various almshouse officials who acted as paid special agents of the Bureau of the Census. The inquiry was limited to inmates of almshouses, so this method of enumeration was feasible. From another point of view, however, the limitation of the inquiry (by the law of March 6, 1902) to almshouse population was perhaps unfortunate. What are wanted above all else are statistics of poverty and pauperism which will enable us to judge of the complete extent of the same. While this ideal is impossible of attainment at the present time for the United States as a whole, fairly complete data could undoubtedly be secured for certain States and smaller localities if the Bureau of the Census could co-operate with the local authorities. The present report is a model for its kind, both in the arrangement of the tables and in the method of analytical treatment. When outdoor pauperism has been as adequately considered as the indoor, or almshouse, paupers have been in this report, there will no longer be any excuse for passing off guess-work as facts or wild exaggeration as sober truth in statements of the extent of poverty and pauperism in this country.

The enumeration of the dependent poor in almshouses was made as of Dec. 31, 1903, but additional schedules dealt with paupers admitted to almshouses during the year 1904 and with discharges, deaths, and transfers during the same period. The careful and intelligent survey of the movement of the almshouse population during the year has resulted in the collection of some exceptionally valuable

data, the analysis of which established certain facts either heretofore unknown or at best largely a matter of guess-work. The innovation of counting the almshouse population in winter when it is largest is an improvement over the previous method of making the enumeration on the census date of June 1, when the almshouse population is considerably reduced by the spring migration of the more able-bodied inmates. It would have been desirable, if practically possible, to have had a statement of the movement of the almshouse population by months, so that a truer average could have been obtained than is now possible. This would have been particularly useful in connection with the mortality statistics.

The report deals with 81,764 paupers in 2,476 almshouses on Dec. 31, 1903; 81,412 paupers admitted to almshouses during 1904; 54,199 discharges; 17,154 deaths; and 6,533 transfers from almshouses to other institutions. Comparison with previous censuses indicates an apparently decreasing ratio of almshouse inmates to total population. There are exceptions, notably in the Western States, where, however, the higher ratios are due to recently provided and ampler facilities for the institutional care of paupers rather than to any exceptional increase in pauperism. On the other hand, in some of the other more populous and more urbanized States, such as New York and Massachusetts, the decline in the ratios of almshouse paupers to total population is largely due to changes in methods of almshouse administration, more effective poor laws, and a more scientific classification of the dependent and defective classes. Organized charity, too, which has developed rapidly of late in certain States, should operate to reduce the number of dependents in almshouses.

There are usually more males than females in almshouses. On Dec. 31, 1903, there were 52,444 males and 29,320 females in the almshouses of the United States. The disproportion of the sexes was greatest in the Western States, where the males constituted 87.4 per cent. of the total, and least in the Southern States, where the males formed 51.7 per cent. of the total in the South Atlantic and 51.3 per cent. in the South Central States. Women remain more permanently in almshouses, when once admitted, and the male element is always a more or less transient class. In the Northern States, especially, many males board at almshouses during the winter and are discharged in the spring. In the South, owing to the mild climate and peculiar industrial conditions, male inmates of almshouses are generally more thoroughly dependent than in the Northern and Western States. The females actually outnumber the males among

the native white paupers of native parentage in some of the Southern States.

On Dec. 31, 1903, there were 7,435 colored paupers in almshouses, of whom 6,910 were negroes, 73 Indians, and 44 Mongolians. The ratio of all colored paupers to 100,000 of colored population was 75.2 as compared with 74.6 for the native white and 314.6 for the foreign-born white populations. The comparatively low ratio of negro paupers does not indicate exceptional or even average thrift, but is due to the general lack of adequate institutional facilities in the South and to the ability of the negro to subsist on a pittance.

The following table brings out clearly the relative distribution by nativity of the white paupers in almshouses compared with the general population:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PAUPERS BY NATIVITY.

Nativity.	Percentage Distribution of	
	General Population (1900).	Almshouse Population (Dec. 31, 1903).
Native of native parents	61.3	46.4
Native of foreign parents	15.9	7.8
Native of mixed parentage	7.5	2.6
Foreign-born	15.3	43.2
Total	100.0	100.0

This table shows that the foreign-born contribute much more heavily to the almshouse population than their proportionate number in the general population would warrant. The favorable age distribution accounts for the relatively small percentage (7.8) which the native-born of foreign parents form of the total almshouse population. Pauperism is a problem of old age or at least of well-advanced adult ages, but at ages 60-64, for example, only 10.2 per cent. of the total white population are native-born of foreign parents, while 89.8 per cent. are native-born of native parents. If it were possible to make the proper corrections for age, it would undoubtedly appear that the native-born of foreign parents contribute more largely to the almshouses than their proportionate numbers in the general population would warrant, and considerably more than do the natives of native parents.

The detail figures for the foreign-born paupers are of interest, and the following table brings out some interesting facts:—

COMPARATIVE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION AND THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN ALMSHOUSES.

Country of Birth.	Total Foreign-born Population, Census of 1900.	In Almshouses, Dec. 31, 1903.	Admitted to Almshouses, 1904.
Ireland	15.6	46.4	41.2
Germany	25.8	23.3	18.4
England and Wales	9.0	8.7	8.8
Canada	11.4	4.8	6.5
Scandinavia	10.3	4.9	4.9
Scotland	2.3	2.5	2.6
Italy	4.7	1.0	3.1
France	1.0	1.4	1.3
Hungary and Bohemia . .	2.9	1.0	1.5
Russia and Poland	7.8	1.5	3.4
Other countries	9.2	4.5	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The very large actual and proportionate number of Irish found in almshouses is very clearly shown. No other foreign-born element of the population approaches the Irish in the actual or proportionate numbers which are contributed to the almshouse population. In this connection we recall an essay by Mr. Byron C. Matthews, entitled "A Study in Nativities," which appeared in the *Forum* of January, 1899. The study was based upon the institutional population of New York City, and the Irish were found to outnumber all the other foreign-born in the almshouses. The figures presented in the report under review conclusively show that this preponderance of the Irish-born element in almshouses is not a local phenomenon.

An analysis of the statistics of length of residence in this country lends no support to the contention that large numbers of immigrants drift into almshouses soon after their arrival in this country. Only 2.3 per cent. of all the foreign-born inmates of almshouses on Dec. 31, 1903, had resided five years or less in the United States, while 96.1 per cent. were reported as having lived here ten years or more.

This report is of special value because of its excellent treatment of the subject of age. The attained ages of the paupers in almshouses are given, but most important of all are the facts in detail, showing the ages at admission. The statistics show that pauperism

is principally a phenomenon of advanced age. For example, 34.7 per cent. of the males admitted to almshouses in 1904 were aged sixty years and over, while 30.8 per cent. of the female admissions were of these ages. Of the paupers found in almshouses on Dec. 31, 1903, 69 per cent. were admitted at ages forty and over. The tables also show that females are admitted at somewhat earlier ages than males, and that a larger proportion of negroes are admitted at the young and very old ages than is true of the white paupers. The foreign-born do not appear to drift into almshouses at earlier ages than the native-born.

Other facts tabulated and analyzed are: marital condition of paupers; literacy; occupation; condition for work (whether able-bodied or incapacitated); mental and physical defects; the mobility of the almshouse population as indicated by the admissions, discharges, deaths, and transfers during 1904; children of pauper mothers; and children under sixteen years of age in the pauper population in almshouses.

It is a matter for regret that more facts are not available on the general subject of institutional mortality. What are needed are more complete and accurate statistics which will show the age, sex, color, or race, nativity, cause of death, duration of illness, and whether the illness is contracted before or after admission to the institution. This report makes a good beginning along this line, as it gives the first four of the items just enumerated (namely, age, sex, color, and general nativity) for the pauper deaths in almshouses during 1904. The high average age of the almshouse population and the high percentage of defectives among this class would lead us to expect a high general death-rate. The average age of paupers admitted to almshouses in 1904 was 49.4 years; and, of the white paupers admitted, 53.5 per cent. were rated as physically or mentally defective, and of the negro admissions no less than 58.2 per cent. had a reduced vitality due to physical or mental impairments. Of the total almshouse population on Dec. 31, 1903, 20.2 per cent. were rated as feeble-minded, 17.4 per cent. as old and infirm, 13.6 per cent. as crippled, maimed, or deformed, 10.3 per cent. as insane, 5.8 per cent. as rheumatic, 4.7 per cent. as paralytic, 3.6 per cent. blind, 1.7 per cent. as epileptic, and 0.9 per cent. as bedridden. No less than 79 per cent. of the total almshouse population on Dec. 31, 1903, were rated as defective, and of the total admissions to almshouses during 1904 53.8 per cent. were thus classified.

During the calendar year 1904 there were 17,154 deaths of paupers in almshouses. Taking the mean of the population in almshouses

on Dec. 31, 1903 (81,764), and of that remaining in almshouses on Jan. 1, 1905 (85,290), it appears that 20.5 per cent. of the average almshouse population during 1904 died during that year, or equivalent to an annual death-rate of 205 per 1,000 of paupers exposed on the average one year. It would seem to be a fair assumption that the mean of the almshouse populations at the beginning and end of the year, when the enumerations are made in winter, will represent a number somewhat in excess of the actual number of paupers exposed to death a year, on the average, inasmuch as the almshouse population is considerably reduced during the summer months. On this assumption I have compiled the following table to indicate the approximate mortality rates of paupers in almshouses, with distinction of age, race, and sex:—

MORTALITY OF PAUPERS IN ALMSHOUSES, 1904.

Rates per 1,000 of the Mean of the Number of Paupers, Dec. 31, 1903, and Jan. 1, 1905.

Ages.	White.		Colored.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 5	268	260	198	164
5 to 14	30	26	69	102
15 " 24	219	115	569	460
25 " 34	251	139	613	401
35 " 44	207	123	493	312
45 " 54	178	104	397	242
55 " 64	149	131	416	259
65 " 74	172	185	424	320
75 " 84	242	247	457	313
85 and over	355	340	421	362
All ages	197	166	464	330

These figures indicate an exceptionally high mortality rate at all ages. They also show that the mortality is higher among males than among females at all ages, and that the death-rates for the colored are uniformly higher than for the white paupers. The high death-rates at the ages 15–44, when we would not expect in a normal population a higher rate than from 5 to 15 per 1,000, suggest that the almshouse paupers of those ages are very largely persons seeking hospital treatment. Among the colored male inmates of almshouses of ages 25–34 no less than 613 of every 1,000, or over 61 per cent. of the total, died during 1904. Of course, many of these persons must

have entered the almshouses in an almost dying condition, otherwise such a high death-rate would be impossible. The rates, even if considered only approximate, are extremely suggestive, and it is to be hoped that in the near future data will be available to make possible the calculation of more accurate death-rates for paupers in almshouses.

Insane and Feeble-minded in Hospitals and Institutions, 1904.

This report, published in 1906, is similar in its general arrangement to that on paupers in almshouses. Among other interesting facts it shows that the insane in hospitals have increased rapidly in recent years. On Dec. 31, 1903, there were 150,151 insane persons in 328 hospitals. Of the total hospitals, 226 were public and 102 private institutions. As the report deals only with the insane in hospitals, it is impossible to say definitely whether insanity has increased faster than population in this country. A considerable part of the apparent increase of the insane in hospitals was undoubtedly the result of ampler hospital facilities, better legislation, and a more scientific classification of the dependent and defective classes. Making due allowance for these factors, however, it still seems reasonable to assume that insanity has increased somewhat faster than population, at least during the thirteen years 1890-1903.

The statistics in this report make it possible to assert that, if insanity is on the increase, it is increasing faster among males than among females.

Of the 150,151 insane persons in hospitals on Dec. 31, 1903, 78,523, 52.3 per cent., were males, and 71,628, or 47.7 per cent., were females. Of the admissions during 1904, 55.2 per cent. were males, and only 44.8 per cent. were females.

Insanity is not unduly frequent among the colored population, though it is apparently most so in the Northern States. The low hospital rate of the colored is, however, doubtless due to lack of adequate hospital accommodations rather than to any special immunity of the colored to insanity.

As in almshouses, the Irish-born element of the population contribute to the insane population of hospitals out of all proportion to their numbers. While only 15.6 per cent. of the total foreign-born population in the United States in 1900 were born in Ireland, this element constituted 29.0 per cent. of the total insane in hospitals on Dec. 31, 1903.

The statistics of age are of special value, particularly as they show the age of the patients at the time of their admission to hospitals.

The tables under this head will repay careful study by all those interested in this branch of medico-social statistics. The average age at admission was 38.5 years for the aggregate insane in hospitals on Dec. 31, 1903, and for males the average was 37.9, and for females 39.1. The average age of the colored insane was about three years less than for the white insane.

Of the total insane in hospitals on Dec. 31, 1903, 10.9 per cent. were physically defective: of the males 12.6 per cent. were physically defective, and of the females 9.1 per cent. A somewhat higher percentage of the negro insane, or 11.3 per cent., were physically defective, the larger part, or 7.8 per cent., being epileptics.

During 1904 there were 14,434 deaths reported in hospitals for the insane. The following table shows the approximate mortality rates with distinction of age, race, and sex. In explanation of the method used in calculating the rates, I would say that the mean of the aggregate numbers of insane in hospitals on Dec. 31, 1903, and on Jan. 1, 1905, has been taken for the average aggregate number of insane exposed to death one year. The percentage age distribution of the insane in hospitals on Dec. 31, 1903, has been applied to this mean number. On this basis the death-rates for the insane in hospitals during the calendar year 1904 were as follows:—

MORTALITY OF THE INSANE IN HOSPITALS, 1904.

Rates per 1,000.

Ages.	White.		Colored.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 20	81	93	152	135
20 to 24	56	69	110	161
25 " 34	26	61	84	116
35 " 44	75	54	104	100
45 " 54	75	58	78	48
55 " 64	120	80	161	123
65 " 74	262	153	279	365
75 " 84	444	274	296	247
85 and over	522	453	778	294
All ages	101	81	125	123

These rates were generally lower than those for the paupers in almshouses, except at ages 75 and over. The mortality of males was higher than that of females at almost all ages. The mortality

of the colored insane was considerably in excess of that of the white insane at nearly all ages.

It would have been of interest to know the causes of death of the 14,434 deaths in insane asylums, and the percentage distribution by specified causes would have contributed not a little to our knowledge of the mortality of the insane.

The latter part of this report deals with the feeble-minded in special institutions for that class of the population. Only 14,347 inmates were found in such institutions on Dec. 31, 1903, although competent authorities estimate that at least 150,000 persons in the United States are so pronouncedly feeble-minded as to stand in need of institutional treatment. The limitation by law of this inquiry to inmates of special institutions impaired its value very seriously.

Of the feeble-minded in special institutions 30.2 per cent. were physically defective. This is an important fact to keep in mind when considering the relatively high mortality rates of the feeble-minded as presented in the following table:—

MORTALITY OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED (WHITE AND COLORED) IN SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS, 1904.

Rates per 1,000.

Ages.	Males.	Females.
Under 5	108	133
5 to 14	31	31
15 " 24	45	29
25 " 34	40	40
35 " 44	56	49
45 " 54	71	56
55 and over	91	103
All ages	41	36

In the calculation of these rates the same method was employed as in calculating the mortality rates of paupers in almshouses and of the insane in hospitals. It was not worth while in this case to separate the white and colored, as only 10 of the 574 deaths were colored. In comparing these mortality rates with those for the paupers and the insane, it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that the age distribution of the feeble-minded is favorable to a lower mortality than is true for either paupers or insane. More than three-fourths of all the admissions to special institutions for the feeble-minded during

1904 were under twenty years of age, and nearly 60 per cent. were of ages under 15. In view of this fact the rates must be regarded as excessive.

In concluding this review, it may not be amiss to refer the reader to a critical analysis of the defects, limitations, and restrictions in the law under which the investigations of the dependent, defective, and delinquent classes were made. These criticisms were made by Mr. Koren in a brief paper contributed to these publications, Vol. VII., No. 54, and they furnish the reasons why it is that the census publications under review do not contain full and sufficient answers to many important questions, such as What is the extent of pauperism in the United States or in any part thereof? Is insanity on the increase in this country? and How prevalent is feeble-mindedness in our population? It is to be hoped that the law will be amended in many important particulars before the next enumeration of the "Special Classes" is made.

F. S. CRUM.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Annual Report upon the Health of Blackburn, England, for the Year 1906. By Alfred Greenwood, M.D., D.P.H.

The annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health of Blackburn, England, have been of special value since 1890, when Dr. Barwise, then Medical Officer of Health, began the careful compilation of the mortality statistics of the cotton operatives. The work begun by Dr. Barwise has been continued by his two successors in office, Dr. James Wheatley from 1891 to 1901 and Dr. Alfred Greenwood from 1902 to the present time. Returns of 4,844 deaths of cotton operatives in Blackburn aged 15 and over are now available for analysis. These deaths occurred during the eighteen-year period 1889-1906, and distinction is made of age and four principal groups of occupations; namely, Weavers, Spinners, Warpers, Winders, etc., and Card-room Hands. Distinction of sex is made only in the statistics of weavers. Principal causes of death by specific occupation are noted in the detail tables at the end of the report, but emphasis has been placed upon consumption and respiratory diseases, as these are the causes of death to which cotton operatives are especially liable.

The annual report for 1906 contains a fifteen-year (1891-1905) summary of the mortality returns, arranged in three five-year periods.